HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 05-1058

CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE "25 BY 25" INITIATIVE AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROMOTING THE INCREASED PRODUCTION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Having an affordable, reliable, and plentiful energy supply is critical to our economy, as well as our national and international food supply; and

WHEREAS, Current and future risks to U.S. energy security are mounting while domestic and global energy demands are growing exponentially; and

WHEREAS, Colorado and the West have tremendous renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, The development of a broad spectrum of renewable energy sources, including wind power, biodiesel, biomass, methane digesters, ethanol, and solar, benefits the environment and will have a
direct economic benefit to agricultural landowners and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Rural communities and agriculture sectors will experience multiple benefits, including establishing additional markets for agricultural commodities; increasing farm income; creating added-value uses for crops, livestock, and their byproducts; more productive use of marginal lands; the resolution of air, water, and soil quality problems that may arise from agricultural operations; improving wildlife habitat; and creating many new job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Solar and wind energy can be captured on the vast land areas managed by U.S. agriculture, and technology and production capabilities allow America's farmers and ranchers to play a major role in ensuring a fully sustainable U.S. energy system; and

WHEREAS, American agriculture is well positioned to play an expanded role in the development and implementation of new energy solutions and with appropriate technological innovation, incentives, and investments, America's farms and ranches can become the factories that produce a new generation of fuels to help meet the nation's energy needs; and

WHEREAS, "25 by 25" is an agriculturally led initiative that envisions America's farms and ranches producing 25% of America's energy demand by the year 2025 while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture's role as an energy producer will have a positive effect on national security and trade imbalances, and will serve as a catalyst for rural development in Colorado; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, support the vision of "25 by 25" whereby agriculture will provide 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Congressional Delegation, the Majority and Minority leaders of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Président George W. Bush.